

Amendments to the Claims

1 (currently amended): A low application temperature hot melt ~~An~~ adhesive comprising a thermoplastic elastomer, a tackifying resin and from about 0.1 to 40 wt % of an ionomer resin, ~~wherein said ionomer is present in amounts of up to about 40 wt %.~~

2 (currently amended): The adhesive of claim 1 comprising from about 0.5 to about 55 wt % of a thermoplastic elastomer[,] and from about 30 to about 90 wt % of a tackifying resin, ~~and from about 0.1 to 40 wt % of ionomer resin.~~

3 (previously amended): The adhesive of claim 2 further comprising up to about 40 wt % of a diluent and/or up to about 25 wt % of a wax.

4 (original): The adhesive of claim 1 comprising from about 0.1 to about 15 wt % of said ionomer resin.

5 (original): The adhesive of claim 4 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is styrene-isoprene-styrene, styrene-b-ethylene/butylene-b-styrene, styrene-butadiene-styrene or a mixture thereof.

6 (original): The adhesive of claim 1, wherein the ionomer resin is selected from the group consisting of polymers and copolymers comprising moieties selected from the group consisting of carboxylate, sulphonate and phosphonate, which moieties are at least partly neutralized by metallic ions selected from the group consisting of Na^+ , Li^+ , Ca^{++} , Mg^{++} , Zn^{++} , Ba^{++} and Al^{+++} .

7-20 canceled

21 (new): The adhesive of claim 1 which can be applied at temperatures of from about 200°F to about 300°F.

22 (new): The adhesive of claim 21 which can be applied at a temperature of from 270°F to about 285°F.

23 (new): The adhesive of claim 21 which can be applied at a temperature of from about 200°F to 250°F.

24 (new): The adhesive of claim 21 comprising 5-55 wt % of a thermoplastic elastomer selected from the group consisting of styrene-isoprene-styrene, styrene-b-ethylene/butylene-b-styrene, styrene-butadiene-styrene and mixtures thereof.

25 (new): The adhesive of claim 24 comprising from about 0.1 to about 5 wt % of said ionomer resin.

26 (new): The adhesive of claim 25 wherein the ionomer resin is selected from the group consisting of polymers and copolymers comprising moieties selected from the group consisting of carboxylate, sulphonate and phosphonate, which moieties are at least partly neutralized by metallic ions selected from the group consisting of Na^+ , Li^+ , Ca^{++} , Mg^{++} , Zn^{++} , Ba^{++} and Al^{+++} .